

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

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ANNUAL CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN CHICAGO

The 1934 annual conventions of the National Canners Association, the National Food Brokers Association and the Canning Machinery and Supplies Association will be held at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago the week of January 15, it has been announced by President Marc C. Hutchinson.

In past years the annual convention has been held the last full week in January. For the coming convention the date has been advanced one week, in view of the fact that various commodity groups may before that time either on their own initiative or at the request of the government, have taken steps toward marketing agreements by which production would be controlled, and the convention will provide opportunity for discussion and action on the subject. Likewise an earlier convention will better enable canners to plan for their contracts with growers for next season's pack.

One of the factors in the selection of Chicago as the location of the convention was the expectation of obtaining the most favorable railroad rates in recent years. Definite announcement with respect to rates will be made later, but it is stated that, because of the many conventions that are being held in Chicago, the railroad rates will be on the basis of a fare and one-ninth for the round trip, or two cents per mile, and that the surcharge on the Pullman rates will be eliminated. With these reductions made, the holding of the convention in Chicago with its central location will mean a considerable saving to the industry as a whole in transportation expense to attend the meeting.

Members will be advised later with respect to arrangements for room reservations, etc.

CANNING CROP PROSPECTS ON SEPTEMBER 15

The following summaries by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics on commercial canning crop prospects refer to prospective production on September 15. They are based largely upon information from canners giving the production possibilities of the crops on or around that date.

GREEN LIMA BEANS.—Prospective production declined 20

per cent from September 1 to September 15 as a result of the storm which swept the Eastern Shore of Virginia and nearby areas. The total indicated production for 1933 is now 15,231,000 pounds (shelled) compared with 19,369,000 pounds produced in 1932, and with a three-year average of 27,209,000 pounds for the period 1929-1931.

BEETS.—On an estimated planted acreage nearly 25 per cent larger than the acreage grown in 1932, the 1933 probable production, as indicated by reports on condition and probable yield on September 15, is 15.7 per cent less than the 1932 production and is less than half the three-year average production for the period 1929-1931. A total production of 18,610 tons is indicated by September 15 conditions, compared with 22,080 tons produced in 1932 and with a three-year average of 40,690 tons for the period 1929-1931. As a reflection of the early season drought, indicated yields per acre are unusually low in all States except Oregon.

CABBAGE FOR KRAUT.—Production prospects on cabbage for kraut declined slightly during the first half of September from 83,560 tons on September 1 to 82,680 tons on September 15. Production in 1932 was 151,760 tons; the five-year average production for the period 1927-1931 was 166,880 tons. Slightly lower yields are now indicated in Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

SWEET CORN.—Sweet corn for canning registered a slight decline during the first half of September, as a result of lower yields per acre reported in Illinois, Michigan, Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Damage from the late August storm in the three latter States was somewhat more than anticipated on September 1. The 1933 probable production, as indicated by reports on condition and probable yields per acre on September 15, is now estimated at 397,900 tons compared with 386,930 tons produced in 1932, and with a five-year average production of 630,880 tons for the period 1927-1931.

TOMATOES.—The total indicated production of tomatoes for manufacture, according to September 15 reports on condition and probable yields per acre, is about the same as indicated on September 1. A total production of 949,370 tons is now indicated for 1933, compared with 1,199,100 tons produced in 1932 and with a five-year average of 1,292,400 tons for the period 1927-1931. The lower yields per acre reported in Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee were offset by improved prospects in New York, Ohio, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, and Colorado.

CANNED FOOD REPORTS IN AUGUST

Most canned foods exports in August showed marked increases, gains being generally reported for canned meats, vegetables and fruits. The monthly statistics as compiled by the Department of Commerce follow:

Articles	August, 1932		August, 1933	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total.....	863,110	\$177,727	1,077,037	\$217,956
Beef.....	52,240	13,085	44,820	9,976
Pork.....	719,048	144,933	963,947	198,794
Sausage.....	36,434	7,345	49,156	10,885
Other.....	55,388	12,364	19,108	3,803
Canned vegetables, total.....	1,091,408	178,907	3,173,621	252,041
Asparagus.....	633,770	77,789	1,416,307	139,067
Baked beans, and pork and beans	180,615	9,111	410,501	18,130
Corn.....	120,950	7,788	148,164	9,243
Peas.....	429,996	36,835	654,069	47,268
Soups.....	109,124	12,878	96,307	9,795
Tomatoes.....	368,701	23,460	259,407	15,989
Other.....	148,252	11,046	188,876	12,540
Condensed Milk (sweetened).....	542,374	81,296	341,968	39,841
Evaporated milk (unsweetened).....	2,725,002	156,654	2,394,147	147,001
Canned fruits, total.....	26,767,698	1,670,779	28,458,463	1,786,152
Apples and applesauce.....	816,076	32,577	576,019	21,436
Apricots.....	2,393,791	149,396	5,165,292	294,032
Loganberries.....	304,419	19,800	600,232	38,534
Other berries.....	57,914	4,771	11,599	1,308
Cherries.....	77,772	6,974	67,770	6,449
Fruits for salad.....	1,006,559	167,714	3,503,858	318,168
Grapefruit.....	1,062,902	67,066	1,489,416	80,683
Peaches.....	14,560,231	801,161	9,204,192	502,753
Pears.....	4,896,432	348,827	4,062,496	247,486
Pineapple.....	850,738	62,778	3,695,078	268,022
Prunes.....	43,372	3,859	62,611	4,128
Other.....	67,492	5,256	29,897	2,153
Salmon.....	10,609,497	1,158,289	4,735,015	629,348
Sardines.....	1,360,481	70,684	1,359,802	76,860

FISH-CANNING INDUSTRY UNDER NATIONAL CANNING CODE

Codes pertaining to the fish-canning industry will be placed under the national canning code, according to a memorandum to Mr. R. F. Fiedler, chief of the Fisheries Section, from Maj. C. W. Dunning, executive assistant to the director of the Processing and Marketing Division of the A. A. A. The memorandum states:

"It had been decided by the Administration, after exhaustive investigation to place codes pertaining to the fish canning industry under the National Canning Code with modifications as affecting particular conditions existing in the industry to adequately cover the industry involved.

"I might mention for your information that the conservation feature in which we are interested and which we are pledged to observe would in no way be affected by this step. It is understood further that the conservation features are now taken care of by various State and Federal laws. However, I wish to assure

you that we shall be glad to have you incorporate in any code adequate conservation features if necessary."

PUBLIC HEARING SET ON GROCERY DISTRIBUTION CODE

The Agricultural Adjustment Administration has set October 9th as the date of the public hearing on the master code of fair competition in distribution in the food and grocery industry in the final form approved for public hearing by the A. A. A. The hearing will be at Washington and will begin at 10 a. m.

The code was prepared by a grocery trade conference committee comprising the National-American Wholesale Grocers Association, the National Chain Store Association, the National Food Brokers Association, the National Association of Retail Grocers, the Voluntary Group Institute, the National Retailer-Owned Wholesale Grocers Association, and the Associated Grocery Manufacturers of America. The code was originally filed on August 23rd.

The National Recovery Administration, which has jurisdiction of the provisions relating to hours of labor, rates of pay and other conditions of employment with respect to the food trades, has announced that a public hearing on these provisions as proposed for the food and grocery wholesale and retail trades will be held at Washington on October 5 at 10 a. m. at the U. S. Chamber of Commerce.

TOMATO GROWERS URGED TO OBSERVE CONTRACTS

Growers of canning tomatoes who are tempted to break their contracts with canners because of the recent rise of the open market price were urged on September 27 by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration to keep their bargains. The Administration pointed out that the canners have cooperated wholeheartedly in responding to a request of Charles J. Brand, coadministrator, for a 25 per cent increase in the price paid to growers, and that the growers should bear this in mind. The Administration suggested that should the situation be reversed at some time in the future, the growers would expect the canners to observe any existing contracts.

The present situation was brought about by the storm along the Atlantic coast. Part of the tomato crop was destroyed, with the result that the open market price in some sections has tended to rise above the level of the contract price, even with the 25 per cent increase added.

A. A. A. ASKS HIGHER PRICE ON CABBAGE FOR KRAUT

Packers of sauerkraut in New York, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Michigan have been requested by the Agricultural Adjustment

Administration to make substantial increases in the price paid for cabbage delivered to them under contract, it was announced on September 28.

The Administration has notified the packers that in order to give the growers parity of purchasing power with the 1909-1914 base period, a minimum price of \$5.50 a ton will be necessary.

Under most existing contracts, the packers would pay \$4 a ton. The Administration suggested that in view of the light crop of cabbage, it should not be difficult for the packers to maintain the \$5.50 price.

As in the case of tomatoes, sweet corn, and other canning crops, the Administration is also requesting buyers of kraut to permit upward revision of their forward contracts with the canners.

BET CANNERS RAISE PRICES TO GROWERS

Through voluntary action of the Wisconsin Canners Association, growers of beets for canning in Wisconsin, Michigan, New York, and other States have the prospect of receiving higher prices for their product, according to an announcement by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

The Wisconsin canners took action to increase prices to beet growers by 20 per cent, provided the adjusted price is not in excess of \$7 a ton. It was pointed out that the increase in raw product costs would increase the cost of the finished product by amounts ranging from 5 cents to 25 cents a dozen, depending on the size of the can.

Officials of the Adjustment Administration have given their approval to this action, and have also approved of the request made by the Wisconsin canners to the beet canners in other States, particularly Michigan and New York, to do likewise.

The Wisconsin canners are preparing a list of the firms which buy canned beets from them, and these firms will be asked to consent to upward revision of forward contracts, made earlier in the year.

RAISE PRICES ON APPLES FOR MAKING VINEGAR

In line with the promise made by a group of important food industries that they will pay farmers parity prices for their products, the H. J. Heinz & Co., of Pittsburgh, has notified the administrator of the Agricultural Adjustment Act that that company has ordered all its vinegar plants to pay 25 cents a hundred pounds for cider apples, as compared with 10 cents a hundred a year ago, according to an announcement by the A. A. A. on September 26.

This price is stated to be the average price for the 1909-1914 base period. Mr. Howard Heinz said he is endeavoring to persuade all the large vinegar manufacturers to do the same thing and hopes that an agreement to this effect will soon be reached.

SPECIAL UNIT OF A. A. A. TO HANDLE RELIEF SUPPLIES

A special unit of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration will be formed at once for the purpose of buying surpluses of farm products and transferring them to the 3,500,000 families on relief rolls, it was announced on September 25 by Secretary Wallace and George N. Peek, Administrator of the Agricultural Adjustment Act.

Heading up the new organization will be Maj. Robert M. Littlejohn, one of the fiscal representatives of the War Department General Staff. Assisting him will be Chester C. Davis and General William I. Westervelt, directors of production and of processing and marketing, respectively, of the Adjustment Administration. Major Littlejohn will be advised by Dr. L. H. Bean on economics and by representatives of the legal and financial divisions of the Administration.

Specific purchases of commodities will be made with the advice of chiefs of the administration's commodity sections, particularly those concerned with dairy products, poultry, hogs, cotton, cattle, fruits and vegetables, and grains.

The new unit will cooperate with the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, headed by Harry L. Hopkins, which plans to distribute the commodities through State and local relief agencies.

REPORTS ON TREND OF RETAIL SALES PLANNED

Regular monthly reports which will show the trend of consumer sales as recorded in selected retail stores, and which will add to the information now gathered by the Federal Reserve Board on department store sales, are to be gathered by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce beginning in the near future.

Partial statistics indicating the trend of sales in certain lines of trade are published regularly by private agencies, but they are not made on comparable bases so as to permit satisfactory tracing of the general trend. Details of the proposed retail sales data to be gathered under the new plans include the setting up of a comparable series of statistics for the past several years on the sales of groceries, new automobiles, variety goods, and general sales in rural communities and small towns.

This is designed to supplement the department store sales index, giving a more complete coverage of the retail field. With more complete retail price data as the result of recently undertaken activities in connection with the recovery program, this information on the volume of retail sales each month is designed to give the Administration and business in general a much more complete check on the trend of retail buying.

HEARING SET ON PACIFIC COAST RATES TO EAST

The hearing by the Interstate Commerce Commission on proposed new rates and charges on canned foods from the Pacific Coast to Eastern points has been set for October 24 at Washington before Examiner Weems. The proposed changes were to have become effective on October 1, but by order of the Commission were suspended until May 1, 1934, pending an investigation and hearing.

CALIFORNIA ASPARAGUS PACK

The Cannery League of California has issued figures showing the division of the California asparagus pack into regular pack and all-green products. The following table shows the pack for 1933, together with figures for 1932 and 1931:

Year	Regular Cases	All Green Cases	Total Pack Cases
1931	1,538,002	209,407	1,747,409
1932	1,061,697	251,534	1,313,231
1933	1,522,232	612,711	2,134,943

SHRIMP PACK

The pack of shrimp during the week ended September 20 totaled 43,542 cases, making the total pack since last August 369,753 cases.

FROZEN AND PRESERVED FRUITS IN COLD STORAGE

The following table shows the holdings of fruit in cold storage reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics as of September 1, also a comparison with last year and with a five-year average:

	Sept. 1 1933	Sept. 1 1932	5-year average
Pears:			
Boxes	605,000	1,377,000	1,024,000
Baskets	122,000	178,000	189,000
Frozen and preserved fruits (pounds) ..	67,228,000	91,908,000	85,023,000

ADVICE GIVEN ON COMMUNITY CANNING

The following excerpts from a recent press release by the U. S. Department of Agriculture on community canning are of interest to commercial canners because they emphasize two points that the canning industry has always stressed—use of the pressure cooker for all vegetables except tomatoes and the necessity of prompt handling of the raw materials. The release states:

On the basis of canning experiments with thousands of cans of food over a long period of years, the Bureau of Home Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, recommends pressure cookers for all vegetables besides tomatoes, and considers the hot pack a further safeguard against spoilage. For example, last year a well-equipped, well-supervised center, using a steam-pressure cooker, put up 17,500 cans of nonacid vegetables, only six cans of which spoiled. Another center, with a pressure cooker, had a record of only two spoiled cans out of 5,000. Still another center, canning without a pressure cooker, lost about 30 percent of its canned corn.

It is particularly important that all vegetables and fruits should be delivered for canning when absolutely fresh, and that they be canned the same day. Sometimes large donations of material reach a canning center too late to be handled until the next day, or the helpers are not well organized for rush work. Market left-overs are sometimes solicited for the canning center. This is a doubtful practice unless the food is obtained while still fresh. It is a mistake to suppose that food no longer good for table use can be rescued by canning. Nothing can restore the lost qualities of freshness.

CANNED FISH MARKET IN SOUTH AFRICA

The American trade in canned fish lost considerable ground during 1932 and there has been no improvement in the situation during the present year, according to a report to the Department of Commerce from the American Consul at Capetown.

The principal imports from the United States are canned salmon, and in this particular line Canadian packers have an advantage both in exchange and in customs preference, while Japanese packers are quoting prices which are competitive with Canadian prices. Despite these handicaps, one particular brand of American salmon is still being sold on a quality basis, but in much smaller quantities. The situation with regard to American canned salmon has slightly improved since the departure of the United States from the gold standard, and sales are expected to increase during the latter part of the present year.

Small sales of California sardines in tomato sauce continue to be made, but this trade has not reached much volume.

CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Annual convention to be held in Chicago	3293	Raise prices on apples for making vinegar	3297
Canning crop prospects on September 15	3293	Special unit of A. A. A. to handle relief supplies	3298
Canned food reports in August	3295	Reports on trend of retail sales planned	3298
Fish canning industry under national canning code	3295	Hearing set on Pacific Coast rates to East	3299
Public hearing set on grocery distribution code	3296	California asparagus pack	3299
Tomato growers urged to observe contracts	3296	Shrimp pack	3299
A. A. A. asks higher price on cabbage for kraut	3296	Frozen and preserved fruits in cold storage	3299
Beet canners raise prices to growers	3297	Advice given on community canning	3299
		Canned fish market in South Africa	3300